

# Tuesday Is Time To Make Political Choices

BY MARJORIE MEGIVERN

Polls open at 6:30 a.m. and close at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at Brunswick County's 21 precincts, where voters will choose county, district and national officials.

A total of 24,572 county residents have registered to vote, but according to Ann Jones of the county board of elections, a turnout of only 50-55 percent is expected in the off-year election, with no significant issues having emerged in the county.

Registered Democrats number 16,584, and there are 7,247 registered Republicans, the remaining 741 being unaffiliated with a party.

These voters will help decide whether or not to return Democrat Charlie Rose to Congress for an eighth term as representative of the 7th congressional district. His opponent, Republican Tommy Harrelson, has waged an aggressive, well-financed campaign, but the two have not struck sparks with any issues beyond Rose's loans from his campaign funds, which has been pursued largely by the state Republican party.

Another decision on the national level is the U.S. senatorial race between former Governor Terry Sanford, a Democrat, and Republican Sen. James Broyhill, formerly Congressman Broyhill, who unexpectedly inherited the seat held by Sen. John East. East's recent suicide led to Broyhill's appointment. Tuesday's ballot will include a vote for one of the candidates to fill the remainder of East's term from November to January, while in another column a vote is cast for a six-year term.

Voters will also choose state senators and representatives. The incumbent Democrat Rep. E. David "Butch" Redwine of Ocean Isle Beach is challenged by Republican Malcolm Grissett of Grissettown for representation of the 13th district. Incumbent Sen. R.C. Soles, Democrat of Tabor City, is faced by Republican J. Lloyd "Randy" Sullivan of Shalotte. Soles has served the past five terms in the state senate.

Both state races have been low-key, as have most county contests. The most surprising note was struck in the competition for two seats on the county's soil and water conservation district board of supervisors. For the first time in many years there is opposition for seats held by James D. Bellamy Jr. of Ocean Isle Beach and Harold Robinson of Supply. Their challengers are Mary Earp of Wimbrow and Maynard Owens of Shalotte.

Clerk of Court Greg Bellamy, Democrat of Holden Beach, is opposed by Republican George Ball of Boiling Spring Lakes.

In his first election campaign since his appointment to the sheriff's office, John Carr Davis, Democrat of Bolivia, will compete with former sheriff, Republican Harold Willetts, also of Bolivia, for a four-year term.

Districts 2 and 5 have in contention seats on the county board of commissioners and the county board of education, all for four-year terms.

In District 2, Tommy Bradsher, Republican of Holden Beach, is opposed by Democrat at Benny Ludlum of Jones. Ludlum was re-elected term of Herman

Love, who resigned.

School board contestants in that district are incumbent Republican Jane Causey and Democrat Dorothy Worth, both of Shalotte.

District 5 commissioner candidates are incumbent Democrat Grace Beasley and Democrat Marvin Donald Shaw Jr., both of Leland.

Vying for the district's board of education seats are incumbent Democrat James Clemmons and Republican Douglas Flynn, both of Leland.

Two unopposed candidates are Lee J. Greer Jr., Democrat of Long Beach, running for a four-year term as district court judge of the 13th judicial district, and Democrat Michael Easley of Southport, running for reelection to his second four-year term as District Attorney of the 13th prosecutorial district.

Three proposed amendments to the North Carolina Constitution appear on the ballot.

Amendment 1 would permit the sale of tax-exempt revenue bonds by private colleges and universities in the state. The funds could be used only to finance and refinance capital improvements for these institutions. The bonds are to be repaid completely by the schools who use them, and Dr. Jacob Martinson, chairman of the University of North Carolina Board of Governors which endorsed the amendment, said, "At no point will the state or its taxpayers be asked to pay for these bonds."

Amendment 2 alters the existing requirement that a special election be held to fill a vacancy in the offices of Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, or members of the

Council of State, if the vacancy occurs more than 30 days preceding the next regular election. The amendment extends that period to 60 days. This noncontroversial proposal would eliminate the trouble and expense of holding those special elections that would fall no more than a month before a regular election.

Amendment 3 allows the use of revenue bonds for certain seaport and airport improvements. State Treasurer Harlan Boyles said passage of this amendment would result in the creation of new jobs throughout the state, in service, administration and high technology. Projects that could be financed in this way are manufacturing, processing, mining, distribution, storage, industrial maintenance, aviation and environmental.

The bonds would not result in higher taxes, as language of the amendment spells out that they must be paid from revenue generated by the facilities built with them. Any state or local government entity is prohibited specifically from guaranteeing any bonds issued under this provision.

While amendments 1 and 3 were rejected by voters in 1982, Alex Brock of the state Board of Elections said there appears to be no opposition to any of them this year. "It's the first time in my tenure that constitutional amendments have been proposed without both pros and cons," he said, "but this time none are linked to any proposition that would raise taxes, and they have been more thoroughly explained to people."

(Candidates Are Profiled Inside This Issue)

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### 'EMERGENCY' MEETING DRAWS CROWD

## Holden Beach Stop Signs Will Reverse—Again



TRANSPORTATION COMMISSIONER TOMMY POLLARD (left) promises Holden Beach area residents at an occasionally stormy meeting Monday

night that stop signs at the beach intersection will be reversed to their original locations and that he will do what he can to get a traffic signal.

STAFF PHOTOS BY SUSAN USHER

BY SUSAN USHER

Stop signs at the Holden Beach intersection are going back to where they were originally, making the third signage change at the location within two months' time.

Shouts of "Change it back!" convinced Transportation Commissioner Tommy Pollard Monday night that local residents want the stop signs reversed again. Following a hostile exchange between Pollard and Rep. David Redwine, the transportation officer asked the group whether it preferred to give suggested improvements for the intersection a chance or to have the signs reversed again.

Pollard also pledged, he said, "to use all my influence and all my energy to get you a stoplight here."

He and other Department of Transportation officials met with nearly 100 Holden Beach area residents and local political figures Monday night at the intersection. The meeting had been requested by Tommy Bradsher, Republican candidate for county commissioner, and Malcolm Grissett, Republican candidate for the state House. Pollard noted several times.

Bradsher said the two asked Pollard to hold the "emergency" meeting because the intersection was a topic of great local concern on which the public needed to be heard.

Pollard spoke from the tailgate of a pickup truck, with GOP candidates in the background and surrounding him.

Rep. David Redwine, speaking from the audience, reiterated his earlier position that only a traffic signal would solve the overall problem at the intersection.

"Any improvements they make will help, but what need at the bottom line is a traffic signal," he said.

Audience members were of like mind. Nick Rogers told Pollard, "Six months out of the year we don't need one, but the other six months we can't do without one."

In what developed into a heated exchange between he and Pollard, Redwine recommended a new traffic study during the summer months, when a more accurate count would be possible, and suggested the safety factor be given fuller consideration.

He suggested to Pollard that the transportation commissioner had the funds available, in spot safety and/or division "pork barrel" money, to finance any needed improvements.

"It's not that simple and you know it's not," retorted Pollard.

Redwine asked why Pollard hadn't notified him of Monday's meeting; Pollard asked Redwine why he wasn't contacted earlier about the problem at the intersection. "I'm your road commissioner," he said.

Redwine, who typically works directly with the Secretary of Transportation's office on road concerns, replied, "Is that the procedure I'm supposed to follow?" I didn't know everything had to go through you. I

don't want to argue with you about the chain of command; I'm here to try and solve the problem."

At one point, Pollard suggested Redwine had recommended some additional improvements proposed by DOT last week for the intersection. However, DOT came up with the recommendations after a letter from Redwine repeating an earlier request for a traffic light at the intersection.

This spring the Town of Holden Beach had asked DOT to consider placing a four-way traffic signal at the intersection to improve traffic flow. Vehicles were backing up the causeway to the Ocean Boulevard intersection on the island.

A traffic study made in April indicated the intersection didn't warrant a light, so DOT began looking at other ways to improve traffic flow and safety at the intersection, where Sabbath Home Road (S.R. 1120), S.R. 1239 and N.C. 130 come together at the Holden Beach causeway entrance.

Division Engineer T.W. Funderburk stressed that cost wasn't the main concern, but that any changes at the intersection had to be justified under department regulations.

The study showed that the heaviest volume of traffic in the intersection was turning right off N.C. 130 onto the causeway or turning left from the causeway onto N.C. 130 toward Shalotte, according to Division Traffic Engineer Roger Hawkins. DOT decided to give this traffic the greatest right-of-way, reversing the traditional location of the two stops at the intersection.

Until August they had been located on S.R. 1239 and on the causeway section of N.C. 130 where traffic exits the beach.

More recently DOT had erected high-intensity large size reflective stop signs and stop ahead signs.

To increase the safety of the intersection, Area Traffic Engineer G.A. Eason last week proposed additional warning signs, pavement markings and patching of pavement on S.R. 1239, destination signs for motorists leaving Holden Beach and on S.R. 1120, junction signs, right-turn arrows and markings for N.C. 130 traffic turning right toward the beach, clearing of clutter from the line of vision at the S.R. 1239-S.R. 1120 corner of the intersection and a 35 mph speed zone on S.R. 1239.

During 1985 there were seven accidents at the intersection and another four during the first seven months of 1986. From Aug. 1 through Oct. 14, there have been two accidents, including one on Oct. 14 in which a concrete truck ran the stop sign on N.C. 130.

"You're going to have a problem either way if somebody runs a stop sign," noted Division Engineer Funderburk. "It doesn't matter where it is, there's going to be a problem."

Mixed feelings were voiced about (See STOP SIGNS, Page 2-A)

## Boat Parade On For Nov. 30 At Calabash

Calabash plans to celebrate Christmas in a coastal way again this year, with a street festival and waterway parade of boats on Sunday, Nov. 30.

Proceeds will again benefit local children, according to Councilwoman Sonia Stevens, an organizer of the event.

Arts and crafts booths, concessions and musical entertainment will begin at noon, with the parade of boats to depart from the Calabash docks on high tide, around 5 p.m., heading south down the Intracoastal Waterway. "We're going to go at least to Little River, S.C.," said Ms. Stevens.

Tentative plans are shaping up quickly for the festival, she said, with a second meeting set tonight (Thursday) at 7 p.m. at the town hall.

"All of the organizations in Calabash—the Elks, the VFW, the fire department and their auxiliaries, the town council—we're all involved in getting this thing going. Everybody will be working together."

Last year's Christmas festival was organized in a matter of about two weeks, she said. "This year we've got more time and more people working."

The Calabash Volunteer Rescue Squad will offer hotdogs and beverages, the Calabash Volunteer Fire Department will serve barbecue

and beverages and other groups are planning to sell snack foods and baked goods. Bingo games are also on the schedule of events.

Artists and craftsmen may enter booths in the arts and crafts show for \$10 per space by contacting Ms. Stevens.

Also, donation jugs will be distributed to area businesses for contributions to the project and direct deposits may be made to the

fund at local branches of United Carolina Bank.

Mayor Doug Simmons will be one of the judges for the boat parade. Entry fees are the same as last year, \$5 or more donation per boat. Judging is based on decoration of the vessel.

If arrangements can be made, a tree-lighting ceremony will be held again this year as well as a Little Miss Reindeer Pageant on Nov. 28.

Organizers will work with com-

munity organizations, the Home Missions Center and the Brunswick County Department of Social Services to identify needy families to assist with the proceeds, Ms. Stevens said. They'll compile a list of local families to distribute Christmas items and food baskets to personally and then distribute the balance through Home Missions, using DSS as a screening agency to identify families.

## Holden Beach Appeals \$34,164 Award To Fayetteville Woman

BY MARJORIE MEGIVERN

A jury in Brunswick County Superior Court quickly returned a decision Oct. 22 favoring Edith Chance of Fayetteville in her suit against Holden Beach. Benton Walton, a Whiteville attorney representing the town, appealed the decision.

Mrs. Chance was awarded \$34,164 to compensate for damages to her Holden Beach cottage in a 1984 fire. She claimed firefighters could not contain the blaze because a nearby fire hydrant was turned off.

A suit filed in February, 1985,

charged the town with negligence in turning off the water supply to the hydrant. Firemen from the Tri-Beach Volunteer Fire Department, testifying for Mrs. Chance, said when they arrived the fire was contained in a small area of the building. However, the hydrant supplying water to her house was turned off, preventing their extinguishing it completely.

Attorney Lonnie Williams of Wilmington, representing Mrs. Chance, contended the damage could have been confined to about \$10,000 had additional water been available.

Mrs. Chance asked for \$44,000, which included the expense of clearing the debris and surveying damages to her home.

Walton's contention and that of Holden Beach officials was that the fire was not under control at the time firemen attempted to use the fire hydrant in question. "It was a windy day, and more water wouldn't have helped," Walton said.

The case has been appealed to the N.C. Court of Appeals in Raleigh. Walton said it would probably be heard within six months.